

Message Text

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ACTION CU-06

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P 121246Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5379

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BERLIN 06738

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF AAU SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

REF: STATE 187290

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT TO ARRANGE FOR US SWIM TEAM TO ARRIVE SCHOENEFELD AUGUST 23. DR. LEHMAN, GDR SWIMMING FEDERATION OFFICIAL CITED REFTEL, IS OUT OF TOWN, AND EMBASSY DIRECTED INITIAL INQUIRY REGARDING COPENHAGEN/SCHOENEFELD FLIGHT TO MR. CZECH, HIS DEPUTY. CZECH AWARE THAT TEAM CONTEMPLATING ARRIVAL EAST BERLIN VIA TEGEL/CHECKPOINT CHARLIE (PROBABLY ON BASIS OF ESSICK/LEHMAN LETTER CITED PARA 1 REFTEL) AND INDICATED HIS ASSUMPTION THAT THIS THE MOST PRACTICABLE ROUTE IF DIRECT CONNECTION TO SCHOENEFELD IMPOSSIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING COPENHAGEN/SCHOENEFELD FLIGHT, CZECH SAID HIS ORGANIZATION COMPETENT TO HANDLE ARRANGEMENTS "FROM THE STATE BOUNDARY ON" AND THAT HIS OFFICE THEREFORE COULD DEFINITELY NOT ASSIST ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. ON MATTERS OF VISA ISSUANCE, CZECH INDICATED THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO HAVE VISAS ISSUED BY GDR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND WAS APPARENTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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UNAWARE THAT TEAM MEMBERS WOULD NOT BE CHOSEN UNTIL AUGUST 21 AND LEAVE FROM LOS ANGELES THE NEXT DAY.

2. EMBASSY THEN CONTACTED INTERFLUG CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF TEAM'S COPENHAGEN/SCHOENEFELD TRAVEL ON
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AUGUST 23, EITHER VIA SCHEDULED AIRCRAFT OR ON EXTRA SECTION.

INTERFLUG HAS INDICATED THEY CAN PROBABLY ARRANGE FOR SPECIAL AIRCRAFT DEPARTING COPENHAGEN IN FORENOON AUGUST 23 TO BRING 75-PERSON PARTY DIRECT TO SCHOENEFELD. ARRANGEMENTS STILL NOT CERTAIN, BUT INTERFLUG EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO INFORM EMBASSY BY AUGUST 15 OF WHAT CAN BE ARRANGED.

3. ARRIVAL SCHOENEFELD OBVIOUSLY MOST DESIRABLE ROUTE, SINCE IT ELIMINATES ALL QUESTIONS OF SECTOR/STATE BOUNDARY CONTROL. ASSUME VISAS COULD BE ISSUED AT AIRPORT IF NECESSARY, WITH EMBASSY ASSISTING AS REQUIRED. IF AUGUST 23 INTERFLUG FLIGHT FALLS THROUGH, HOWEVER, EMBASSY CONSIDERS TRANSIT TO EAST BERLIN VIA CHECKPOINT CHARLIE AS LEAST UNDESIRABLE COURSE OF ACTION. TEAM VISIT WAS NOT ARRANGED UNDER OFFICIAL AUSPICES AND ALL TEAM MEMBERS PRESUMABLY TRAVELING WITH TOURIST PASSPORTS. IF CHECKPOINT CROSSING IS USED, EMBASSY OFFICIALS WILL OF COURSE NOT BE PART OF ANY WELCOMING DELEGATION (ALTHOUGH IF INVITED WE WOULD ATTEND RECEPTION WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS PLANNED FOR THAT EVENING). SIMILARLY, EMBASSY CANNOT REQUEST VISAS FOR GROUP, AND ALL SUCH ARRANGEMENTS THEREFORE UP TO GDR HOSTS. BUS TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN TEGEL AND CHECKPOINT MAY BE PROBLEM GIVEN CZECH'S INSISTENCE THAT HIS ORGANIZATION ABLE TO HANDLE ONLY ARRANGEMENTS "FROM THE STATE BOUNDARY ON" BUT GDR HAS ARRANGED PICK-UP FOR OTHER GROUPS IN THE PAST AND COULD PROBABLY BE CONVINCED THAT AS GOOD HOSTS THEY SHOULD DO SO AGAIN.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE EMBASSY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF AAU GROUP ABLE TO ARRANGE CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE SPECIAL INTERFLUG LEAVING COPENHAGEN IN FORENOON AUGUST 23, AND SUGGEST BEST TIME FOR POSSIBLE COPENHAGEN DEPARTURE. ALSO, REQUEST CONFIRMATION THAT NO MORE THAN 75 SEATS WILL BE REQUIRED. STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT AAU NOT CANCEL PRESENT FLIGHT PLANS UNTIL IT IS DEFINITELY KNOWN THAT INTERFLUG CAN ARRANGE EXTRA FLIGHT. POLANSKY

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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